

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed, together with its English-language abstract, is attached.

JP 7-105407
JP 7-200866
JP 8-263633

These documents were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, which is dated March 12, 2007, is attached.

In view of this date, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that each document in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning a copy of the attached Form PTO-1449.